

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,156
Reply to Office Action dated May 24, 2005

Remarks

Applicant has read and considered the Office Action dated May 24, 2005 and the reference cited therein. Claims 19 and 21 have been amended and claim 20 has now been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-14, 17-19 and 21 are pending.

In the Action, claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rousseau. Claim 19 has now been amended and recites elements of claim 20, which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant asserts that claim 19 is therefore allowable for the reasons that claim 20 is allowable, as well as others.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-14, 17 and 18 were allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of these claims. In addition, claims 20 and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim 19, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 19 has been amended to recite the elements of claim 20 and is believed to be allowable. Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form and is believed to be allowable.

As all of the claims have been allowed or were objected to and the objected to claims have been rewritten in independent form, Applicant asserts that the application is in condition for allowance.

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FROM-Merchant & Gould

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A speedy and favorable action on the merits is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.

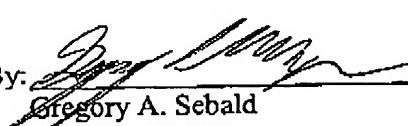
Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated:

7/20/05

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